(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the services of both landline connections and mobile phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) and (b) Sir, efforts are continuously made by all service providers to improve the quality of service of mobile network in the country. An analysis of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) report for the quarter ending December, 2005 indicates that most of the quality of service (QOS) parameters are generally met.

(c) and (d) TRAI has issued a direction on 29th November, 2005 to all Cellular Mobile Service Providers to ensure by 31st December, 2005, that the quality of service parameters, including the level of point of interconnection (POI) congestion, in its network should be strictly within the benchmark laid down by the Authority. The matter was discussed by TRAI with service providers when the later indicated that they have a very high growth rate and that factors such as interconnection, lack or delay of permission for erection of cell sites etc. are impending a better QOS.

(e) Besides watching the general performance with reference to QOS of both landline connections and mobile phones, Government is making continuous efforts to coordinate and release additional spectrum from existing users. The matter for clearance of cell sites is pursued with local authorities.

Amount for development of NER

†751. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of the amount being provided to North East States for developmental works is done by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the system established therefor; and

(c) whether his Ministry is satisfied that the citizens are getting full benefit of the funds being provided for development works?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Funds for development works

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the North Eastern States are provided through their Annual Plans, and through the Annual Plans of the Central Government Ministries.

Before finalization of Annual Plan and Budget of Central Government Ministries/Departments, we take up the matter with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry to ensure that each of the non exempted Ministries/Departments provides for at least 10% of its Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the North Eastern Region (NER).

We participate in the discussions held in the Planning Commission for finalization of Annual Plans of North Eastern States and take note of Annual Plan provisions. We also take note of budgetary provision and progress of expenditure and of unspent balances left over by these Ministries at the end of the year. After authentication by the Finance Ministry, the unspent amount is transferred to the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). Out of this Pool, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) gets budgetary provision and sanctions funds for infrastructure development in the States of the Region.

(c) So as to ensure that the citizens get full benefit of funds being provided for developmental work, following steps are taken:

1. All projects sanctioned by the Ministry are continuously monitored through periodical progress reports received from the State Governments depicting both the financial and physical progress of the projects.
2. Review meetings and inspections are undertaken by Ministry officers.
3. Funds are released to States in installments. Second and subsequent installments are released to the States only on submission of utilization certificates of the amount earlier released, quarterly progress reports and photographs of the projects executed.
4. For each project, an officer, called Nodal Officer is assigned the responsibility of implementation of that project on schedule.
5. The State Chief Secretary has been entrusted with the responsibility of quarterly review of each of the projects and to send the proceedings of the quarterly review at the end of each quarter.

6. The Planning and Development Department of each State has been entrusted with field inspections of the projects through senior officers of the State and submission of inspection notes.

7. Tours by senior officers of the Ministry of DoNER are undertaken to effectively monitor as well as identifying problem areas, verifying physical and financial progress for speedy implementation of NLCPR projects.

Funds for Bodoland Territorial Areas District of Assam

752. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of funds released to the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BATD) of Assam out of Rs. 500 crore special economic package for five years;

(b) the details of projects undertaken within BATD under NLCPR during last two years;

(c) whether Government are considering to enhance the total amount of special economic package to meet the necessity of infrastructural development in the BATD; and

(d) whether that special package can be extended to other autonomous districts of Assam like Missing, Rabha, Karbi-Anglong and Tiwa?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has released Rs. 100.00 crore during 2004-05 and Rs. 78.72 crore during 2005-06 upto 31.01.2006 for 36 infrastructure development projects in Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Area, under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) as special economic package. Details at the statement enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration.